

Ms. Funaro,

We are an independent pediatric clinic in Cedar Rapids with five providers and more than 7,500 patients. We are concerned about the Medicaid Privatization that is scheduled to begin in just two months.

Our biggest concerns at this time are:

1. Will the MCOs have the systems in place to accept our claims and pay them accurately in a timely manner;
2. Will there be an adequate network to take care of members;
3. How will members choose a plan, and
4. Will there be appropriate placement/continuity of care for these members.

We respectfully request consideration of these requirements be included in any special terms:

1. Requiring a 24 month phase-in of the Medicaid populations. This means blocking DHS from placing all 560,000 Medicaid consumers into the MCO system all at once on January 1, 2016; and requiring DHS to develop a timeline indicating when each population would be transitioned to MCOs.
2. Requiring DHS to mandate that the four MCOs work together to streamline and coordinate systems for providers and consumers including billing procedures, timely filing deadlines, and prior authorization.
3. Requiring integration with SIM.
4. Requiring a robust, independent case management system.
5. Requiring four MCOs to pay providers at a level not less than rates on June 30, 2015.
6. Requiring third party initial level of care determinations.
7. Requiring an independent, expedited appeal process and conflict resolution process for consumers and providers.

In addition, we have serious concerns about media reports regarding charges of fraud or mismanagement by the four MCOs selected for Iowa that have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in fines, as well as recently discovered improprieties in the selection process.

Caring for the most vulnerable of our population is expensive but IME seems to have been doing a good job of controlling costs and providing good service. It's quite difficult to understand how four independent insurance companies (three of which are for-profit) can do a better job than employees of the state.

We currently care for **over 500 Medicaid-covered children** and worry that we won't have the resources to care for them once the four MCO's take over. We worry that we won't have the ability to provide needed care and the ability to refer children on for specialized care when we believe it's warranted. We certainly won't be accepting any additional Medicaid patients until we see that the MCO's are taking care of providers as well as members.

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